

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A chemical delivery device for holding powdered reagents that interact with water to form an anti-microbial fluid for use in an apparatus for cleaning and microbially deactivating items, comprised of:

a rigid container having connection means defining a fluid inlet, said connection means being sealably connectable to a source of water on an apparatus for cleaning and microbially deactivating items and a fluid outlet in fluid communication with items to be microbially deactivated;

a continuous fluid passage through said container between said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet;

a plurality of spaced-apart barrier elements disposed within said fluid passage to define a plurality of isolated compartments within said container, said barrier element being impervious to powdered reagents, but permeable to said chemical reagents when dissolved in a liquid;

a first dry, powdered reagent within ~~one of~~ said compartments for forming an anti-microbial solution when water flows through said container;

a plate disposed in said fluid passage above said first, dry powdered reagent, said plate having a plurality of spaced-apart apertures formed therethrough; and

a cavity defined above said plate, said cavity communicating with said fluid inlet, defining a portion of said continuous fluid passage, and being fluidly connected to said compartment by said plurality of spaced-apart apertures formed through said plate.

2. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 1, wherein said container is formed of a molded polymer material.

3. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 1, further comprising a removable, moisture barrier covering said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet.

4. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 3, further comprising a removable desiccant material in said passage.

5. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 4, wherein said desiccant material is in said passage at said fluid outlet.

6. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 1, wherein said container is generally cylindrical in shape.

7. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 2, wherein said barrier elements are formed of a porous polymer material.

8. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 7, wherein said barrier elements are formed of an ethylene-based polymer.

9. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 7, wherein said barrier elements are size exclusive filters.

10. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 1, wherein said container has two compartments and one of said compartments holds an acid precursor.

11. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 10, wherein said acid precursor includes acetylsalicylic acid.

12. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 9, wherein said barrier element adjacent said fluid outlet includes a microbial filter layer that filters particles having a size of .1 μ or greater from fluid passing through said container.

13. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 1, wherein said container includes a first compartment disposed between said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet, and a second compartment disposed between said first compartment and said fluid outlet, said first compartment containing a first dry reagent and said second compartment containing a second dry reagent.

14. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** An apparatus for microbially deactivating instruments and devices, said apparatus comprised of:

a circulation system for selectively circulating water and an anti-microbial fluid through a chamber for holding instruments and devices to be microbially deactivated, said chamber forming a portion of said circulation system;

a chemical delivery device for holding powdered chemical reagents that interact with water to form an anti-microbial fluid, said chemical delivery device having:

connection means defining a fluid inlet, said connection means being sealably connectable to said circulation system;

a fluid outlet in communication with said chamber;

a plurality of compartments for holding said powdered chemical reagents,

a continuous fluid passage extending through said chemical delivery device between [[a]]said fluid inlet and [[a]]said fluid outlet, said passage extending through said compartments,

porous barrier elements disposed along said passage isolating one compartment from another compartment and isolating said compartments from said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet, said barrier elements being impervious to said powdered reagents, but permeable to said reagents when dissolved in water;

a plate disposed above said powdered chemical reagents within said fluid passage, said plate having a plurality of spaced-apart apertures communicating with said chemical reagents;

a cavity defined above said plate, said cavity communicating with said fluid inlet, defining a portion of said continuous fluid passage, and being fluidly connected to said compartment by said plurality of spaced-apart apertures formed through said plate; and

a cavity in said apparatus for receiving said chemical delivery device, said cavity having a fluid line connectable to a source of water in communication with said cavity, said fluid line being sealably connectable to said fluid inlet on said device when said device is disposed within said cavity, wherein water from said source of water may be forced into said device through said fluid inlet to interact with said chemical reagents in said device.

15. (NEW) An apparatus for microbially deactivating instruments and devices as defined in claim 14, wherein said spaced-apart apertures of said plate are disposed radially around a central portion of said plate.

16. (NEW) An apparatus for microbially deactivating instruments and devices as defined in claim 14, further comprising:

porous barrier elements disposed along said passage isolating one compartment from another compartment and isolating said plurality of compartments from said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet, said barrier elements being impervious to said powdered reagents, but permeable to said reagents when dissolved in water.

17. (NEW) A chemical delivery device for holding powdered reagents that interact with water to form an anti-microbial fluid for use in an apparatus for cleaning and microbially deactivating items, comprised of:

a rigid container having a connection means defining a fluid inlet that is sealably connectable to a source of water on an apparatus for cleaning and microbially deactivating items and a fluid outlet in fluid communication with items to be microbially deactivated;

a continuous fluid passage through said container between said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet;

a plate disposed in said fluid passage, said plate having a plurality of spaced-apart apertures formed therethrough;

a rigid lid disposed above said plate;

a compartment defined within said container below said plate;

a first dry, powdered reagent within said compartment for forming an anti-microbial solution when water flows through said container;

a cavity defined between said plate and said lid, said cavity being isolated from said compartment by said plate, and said cavity being fluidly connected to said compartment by said plurality of spaced-apart apertures formed through said plate.

18. (NEW) An apparatus for microbially deactivating instruments and devices as defined in claim 17, further comprising:

a plurality of spaced-apart barrier elements disposed within said fluid passage to define a plurality of isolated compartments within said container, each of said barrier elements being impervious to powdered reagents, but permeable to said chemical reagents when dissolved in a liquid.

19. (NEW) A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 18, wherein said barrier elements are size exclusive filters.

20. (NEW) A chemical delivery device as defined in claim 17, wherein said container has two compartments and one of said compartments holds an acid precursor.